

Forestry Employee Receives Outstanding Service Forester Award

Kentucky Division of Forestry (KDF) employee James Morris recently received the Outstanding Service Forester Award from the Kentucky Woodland Owners Association (KWOA). Morris, who works in the Green River District, has advanced forest management through his work with private landowners since 1995. He was selected by KWOA as the first recipient of the annual award based on his accomplishments over the past few years.

Since 2007, Morris has provided technical assistance to approximately 180 woodland owners, prepared 112 forest stewardship plans, and has inspected nine American Tree Farms for certification. As a service forester, he primarily works with private landowners who manage their woodlands using sustainable forestry practices. Morris' responsibilities also include marking timber for harvest and timber stand improvement, planting seedlings, conducting forestry education programs and fighting forest fires.

"James is highly respected and appreciated by landowners throughout the Green River District," said Henry Duncan, KWOA Vice President. "His knowledge of woodland management and cost-share programs has enabled landowners to better manage their woods for timber, wildlife habitat, watersheds and outdoor recreation."

Morris serves Christian, Logan, Todd and Webster counties and despite a demanding workload, he makes time to work cooperatively with other resource agencies including the Conservation Districts, County Extension, Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Natural Resource Conservation Services and Farm Services Agency.

KDF is fortunate to have the dedication, experience and leadership of employees like Morris who provide an invaluable service to landowners and who play an important role in protecting the health of our forest lands.

KWOA is a non-profit membership organization founded in 1994 for the purpose of promoting the quality of our woodlands. The organization is controlled exclusively by independent Kentucky woodland owners whose goal is to help Kentucky forest landowners attain long-term value from their forestry operation while maintaining a healthy, beautiful forest. For more information about KWOA, please visit <http://kwoa.net/index.htm>.